

The Lost Treasures of the Spanish Main

Gold and Jewels Still Waiting to be Found by Some Modern Adventurer

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BILLIONS of dollars' worth of treasure lie today where men of the past centuries have lost or buried it. History teems with accounts of sacks of cities, caches of the stolen treasure-troves concealed from invaders, millions hidden by pirates and buccanniers, wonderful mines of gold or silver found and then lost, and treasure-ships sunk in shallow waters.

Little of it has ever been recovered; the average man prefers to work for a few dollars a week.

But the history of the hundreds of treasures, some of them well known and rich in narrative, some of them but vaguely chronicled, is something of absorbing interest to the man with the true spirit of adventure in his blood.

More gold and silver was produced from the newly discovered Western Hemisphere by the early Spanish and Portuguese adventurers than the world had ever known in its history. The Spanish Main reeked with it. The Indians, from Mexico to Peru, had so much that they had no use for it. Shiploads after shiploads went to England, Spain and Portugal. Pirates and privateers raided the ports and the galleons. Governors often cached the treasures of a city to save them from the raiders; bishops and priests hid the wonderful solid gold altars, railings, vessels, and so forth, to keep them safe. Often the governor was slain or captured, perhaps removed, and in many cases the clerics suffered similar fates.

Hundreds of millions have been recovered, but the sums remaining unfound are so vast as to be staggering.

It is of those unrecovered or only partially recovered that I write, giving all the facts that I have been able to find, hoping to start the seekers on to the quests. Some of it seems so easily recoverable that one could go and almost lay one's hands on it; more of it would require patient effort, digging, draining, diving, searching; still other portions will be found only by the purest chance, as the clues are too vague.

There is one astounding store of gold the history of which is so clear and definite, and the obstacles to recovery so slight, that I will state its claims first.

On the Cundinamarca plateau in the Republic of Colombia is a little pond a quarter of a mile across. In the exact center of this pond superstitious Indians dumped gold in fiber bags in such quantities that on the bottom lie hundreds of millions, perhaps several billion dollars' worth. One chief dropped in 9,600 pounds in one day to save the life of a sick daughter, and the votive process went on uninterruptedly for hundreds of years. It is easy to see how stupendous the treasure must be and how difficult to estimate accurately.

The bulk of the definite information concerning the lake comes from the journal of Fray Pedro Simon, a Jesuit missionary who dwelt among the Chibcha Indians near the lake for many years and witnessed the one incident cited.

At the time of the conquest the lake was called Quatawita, "Care-taker of Life." The Indians believed that in the lakes and springs dwelt the sub-deities, and all the tribes in northern South America believed that in this wonderful little pool, with its clear cold springs and beautiful shores, dwelt the deity, who had power to save and heal. Gold was to be found everywhere. Its sole use was for decoration and religious or superstitious offerings.

Even today they still hide the secrets of the deposits, appearing in the towns with little leaf baskets the bottoms of which are covered with gold, which they use to buy all the print-clothes, arms, food and trinkets that make up their simple needs; then they go away to their huts in the mountains. When the Spaniards first came the Indians laughed to find the white men so eager for what they deemed of so little value. But when they saw the white men killing and torturing their brothers, wives and children they grew silent and ever since have hidden all their knowledge of gold among themselves. An Indian who leads the way to an Indian mine signs his own death-warrant.

Fray Pedro Simon's account of the lake says that it was one of a chain, that it was so small that two fiber ropes could be stretched across it, marking it into quarters. They crossed in the exact center. Rafts were moored on shore, and the Indians coming from afar laden with gold would heap it on these rafts in fiber and skin bags, use the ropes to guide the rafts to the center and then throw in the gold, an old and sacred man of the tribe or family reciting invocations to the spirit of the lake.

What I have related has been common property among men interested in treasure-seeking, and parts of the facts have been printed both in America and England, but this is the first time that all the known facts have been given. There is today on the plateau a lake called Quatawita, but it does not answer Fray Pedro Simon's description.

On the 15th of April, 1843, there set sail from what is now Colon the Spanish galleon Santa Marta, commanded by a master-at-arms called El Tigre de Jonco, and bearing vice-governor Hernandez Arojas y Alencón, with a considerable company of wounded and fever-broken Spanish soldiers, a scattering of priests and some business travelers.

She was headed for Cadiz and Vigo. Her cargo was almost entirely gold to the value of about \$25,000,000.

It was not supposed that any one aboard was aware that there was anything extraordinarily valuable aboard, except the master, Governor Arojas, and two priests of the ship's company. Some one organized a mutiny among the returning soldiers and sailors and, while the ship was heavily armed to defend herself against pirates or privateers, she was very easily taken over by her own crew some time during the first week out.

Two boatloads of prisoners were abandoned on the sandy shore of the palisades off the harbor of Kingston, Jamaica, but El Tigre de Jonco and Governor Arojas were not among them, and somewhere in the chinks of history their fate has slipped through and been lost.

The marooned people were very quickly picked



up by small boats and landed in Kingston, and a Dutch privateer by the name of Warbington hurried in pursuit. The record of what transpired during the chase and the flight is not clear—it is even too vague to be pertinent, but a month later Warbington sailed into what is now New York harbor and reported that he had fought the Santa Marta twice and been worsted, but had followed her to the Windward Passage, as it is now known, and north to the islands now bearing the name Fortune Islands, given them by reason of this very happening.

Here the crew cached the treasure, as they could not enter any important port and account for themselves and could not enter a small port and dispose of their hoard. It is positive that in these islands the cache was made, because when the Santa Marta reached Puerto el Principe shortly thereafter she was discharged. In the Fortune Islands was the only place she could have sent the treasure ashore.

The governor of Puerto el Principe was about to arrest the crew on suspicion of their having committed piracy, when they put to sea, and later the bulk, burned to the water's edge, was found near Cape May. The men were never heard of, but, as they were quarreling and fighting among themselves in Puerto el Principe, it is logical to suppose that there was a second mutiny with much bloodshed, that the ship was fired and that those who did not jump into the sea were burned to death.

Two other galleons were robbed that same year by mutinous crews, but the treasures were safely landed by the mutineers, one crew at Lisbon and the other at Genoa. These must not be confused with the Santa Marta affair.

The Fortune Islands are quite small, are inhabited almost solely by Bahama blacks, are almost out of touch with the world, though but four days' sail from New York and one from Nassau or Havana. From the charts it may be seen that there is but one spot where the Santa Marta could have anchored to put ashore so heavy a cargo, and there ought to be little difficulty in locating the cache on the low-lying island. So far as I know, there has never been any attempt made at recovery.

There are many, many alluring sunken treasures on both coasts. Many of these are so familiar as to need but the merest mention.

Large sums and great effort have been expended to recover the millions in California gold of the old Golden Gate, definitely located on the Mexican coast.

Admiral Francis Drake's Marigold carried the bulk of his spoils up to the time of her loss on the west coast near Piedra Negra.

In 1697 Admiral De Pontia, with a combined fleet of royal ships and colonial privateers, attacked, captured and sacked Cartagena and departed in two sections, the last ships being the treasure-bearers. They were intercepted by the English and one was blown up by a shot into her magazine and sank in the harbor; another went ashore near by; and a third was beached on Ciske Cay. To recover the treasure, location can be effected through a study of the British admiralty records, and at least one of the three should lie in shallow water.

The so-called Captain George B. Boynton, by all odds the greatest adventurer of modern times, would have made the records of Drake, Morgan and De Ruyter look pale and sickly had he lived in the good old days. Until his death in Brooklyn some months ago at an advanced age, he carried the knowledge of a number of treasure-troves, the richest of which is an unnamed galleon in a Venezuela harbor.

Before leaving the subject of the buccanniers, another sunken treasure should be cited. In 1686 a Captain Phipps of the British navy learned of a sunken buccannier vessel with a great treasure aboard on the shore or near the Tortugas and

was sent by James II. of England to effect recovery. He found the treasure, removed only a part of it, and then sailed away, owing to the approach of two Spanish men-of-war. He was about to return, when the revolution of 1688 broke out and he was deterred. In the admiralty archives are all details of this uncompleted task. What was easy for Captain Phipps should be still easier with modern methods.

For the past twenty years Mexican antiquarians have been expecting the announcement of the finding of a vast treasure in the State of Puebla. The third royal Spanish viceroy after Cortez succeeded in torturing from the chiefs of a tribe in Jalisco the secrets of the hiding-places of all of the tribal store of gold and silver, and by great efforts brought it to Tacuba, where it was concealed during a period when the suzerainty of New Spain was more or less uncertain. A dummy treasure-train was organized and started for Vera Cruz, and the word went forth that it carried the treasure. Some weeks later the real treasure-train of one hundred and eighty mules set out with only the usual small guard.

In some way the word got abroad, and the train was attacked by a mixed force of adventurers and Indians at a point within sight of the white tops of Popocatepetl and Ixtacchihuatl. The defenders of the treasure succeeded in escaping with the loss of five mules and their burdens, but while passing through a gorge on the route of the old trail, now followed more or less closely by the Mexican railroad, they decided it was best to cache the treasure.

A cave in the gorge was chosen and three hundred and twenty bags of gold and silver, containing several million dollars' worth, depending on how much more gold there was than silver, were stored away, while the train proceeded to Orizaba. Some fifteen miles from the site of the present town the same band again attacked the train and killed nearly all the guard. Since the development of the region in which the cave must lie has begun, its discovery is only a matter of time, and it might be effected with comparative ease. There cannot be many gorges, and caves are not frequent. The chances for finding the right one are rather strong. It has never been attempted.

No small spot on the face of the earth has been so productive of treasure-hunting adventure as Cocos Island off the coast of Costa Rica.

The west coast pirate Bonita before his death insisted that he had painted more than two million dollars in gold, silver, jewels and plate on the island, but his specific directions were lost by his ignorant executors.

A party of Mexican political refugees, several of them of the famous Romero family or its connections, fleeing from the wrath of Santa Anna in 1848, planted under a stone arch on the island more than one million dollars, the revolutionary fund with which they expected to gain control of the government.

The third treasure is the greatest and most important. There is a little doubt as to whether it is located on Cocos or is in the Gallapagos group, off the coast of Peru. The traditions all say the latter place, but after a digest of all sources of information I am convinced that Cocos is the spot.

Among the smaller treasures of which there is record it is well to mention the seven large cannon filled with gold-pieces by the pirate Villazon and buried on an island at the very southernmost part of the Bay of Campeche; the reported cache on the top of the eminence immediately north of the city of Santiago de Cuba, to be reached only by a difficult trail starting in near Dos Caminos; the mysterious and probably non-existent Havana municipal treasure, said to have been assembled at the time of the English attack and concealed within the ramparts of Morro Castle so effectually that it was never found again.

SOCIALISTS NAME EDITOR FOR GOV.

C. E. RUTHENBERG, OF CLEVELAND SOCIALIST, WILL HEAD STATE TICKET.

WOMEN ARE ALSO NOMINATED

Despite the fact that Ohio has not accorded equal suffrage, six ladies are among those nominated by the party for the various state offices. Vigorous campaign will be waged this fall.

Columbus.—C. E. Ruthenberg, editor of the Cleveland Socialist, will head the Socialist state ticket this fall. He was nominated for governor on the third ballot by the Socialist state convention, in session at the Federation of Labor hall.

Albert Potwell of East Liverpool was nominated for lieutenant governor.

On the first ballot the following vote was cast for candidates for the nomination for governor: C. E. Ruthenberg, Cleveland, 32; Harry D. Thomas, Cleveland, 24; Max Hayes, Cleveland, 16; George Storck, Lorain, 16; Thomas Clifford, Cleveland, 15; Dr. D. R. Kinsell, Columbus, 11; Ivan Harris, Canal Dover, 4; William Bessmer, Cleveland, 3.

On the second ballot all but the four leaders were eliminated. Ruthenberg got 44, Hayes 19, Storck 23, and Thomas 35.

On the third ballot Hayes and Storck were dropped, and Ruthenberg defeated Thomas 65 to 60.

The names were placed in nomination without speech making Saturday morning for candidates for governor and other state offices. Rev. Frederick Guy Strickland, chairman of Saturday's session, would not permit speeches or even mention who the candidates were as they were being nominated.

Allen Cook of Canton; Scott Wilkins, Socialist mayor of St. Marys; William Patterson of Toledo and Strickland of Dayton, nominated for governor, declined.

Clash Over Women.

The names of six women were placed in nomination notwithstanding the fact that women are ineligible to hold office in Ohio. They were: For auditor of state, Josephine Bates, Toledo; for state school commissioner, Mrs. G. A. Storck of Lorain; Mrs. Mary Kuhn of Findlay, and Mrs. Anna Swan of Canton; for clerk of supreme court, Miss Anna Mintern, Columbus; for elector, Miss Lotta Burke of Cincinnati.

Frank Prevey of Akron, whose wife is a member of the state executive committee and a delegate to the National Socialist convention, advised against the nomination of the women because, he said, the secretary of state would not permit their names to go on the ballot and the party finally would be compelled to name men to fill their places.

Prevey's speech brought a reply from Miss Burke, who called attention to the fact that a proposal to enfranchise women would soon go before the voters of Ohio, and who said the women might be entitled to hold office before the next election. In order to avoid complications, it is likely that the women will not be nominated.

Many For Congress.

Harry D. Thomas, constitutional delegate, was placed in nomination for congressman-at-large along with James Henderson, president of the Columbus Federation of Labor; E. L. Hitchens of Cincinnati, a prominent labor union man; Bert Nichols of Mansfield and Hiram E. Moore, constitutional delegate from Zanesville. Moore's name was later withdrawn when it was brought out that he was not nominated for constitutional delegate by the Socialist party, but by the Grangers' organization. He is a Socialist, however.

LIVED WITH NECK BROKEN

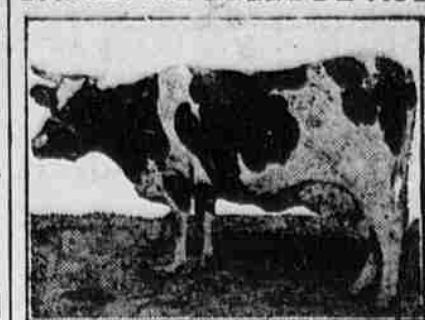
Fell Through Elevator Shaft Three Stories—Body Was Discovered by Clerk.

Columbus.—After displaying a most remarkable vitality in the face of injuries which included a broken neck and internal injuries of a serious nature, Gwendolyn D. Rose, aged nineteen, who fell three stories through the elevator shaft at the hardware store of Cussins & Fearn, 48-50 West Spring street. Her death occurred in 19 hours at the Protestant hospital, where she was taken by the police ambulance shortly after Frank Hott, shipping clerk, discovered the body at the bottom of the elevator shaft.

WOMEN JOIN STRIKERS.

Canton.—A hundred women, armed with clubs joined male strikers and went to the rescue of Mrs. J. Gomboni, when special officers arrested her on a charge of being an agitator in the Metropolitan Bank company's strike. A riot followed, in which the officers opened fire. The mob returned the fire and wounded a Cleveland private detective. The officers put Mrs. Gomboni into an automobile and escaped to the city prison. Local police made 31 arrests.

BANOSTINE BELLE DE KOL



Queen of Dairy World.

NEW QUEEN OF THE DAIRY.

Banostine Belle De Kol Holds Record as Producer of Butter-Fat.

East Claridon.—With a record of 1,058.34 pounds of butter-fat produced in one year, Banostine Belle De Kol, a five-year-old Holstein-Friesian cow owned by Dan Dimmick & Bro., East Claridon, Ohio, becomes the new "Queen of the Dairy World." This wonderful cow produced during the year 27,404.4 pounds of milk testing 3.86 per cent. fat. This means over nine gallons of milk per day, or enough to supply 36 families each with a quart of milk daily. If made into butter, her fat production would equal 1,322,925 pounds of butter, or over three and one-half pounds per day for 365 days. This is all the more remarkable because it was made without her being dry at all before freshening. No other cow in the world has ever produced such an enormous amount of butter-fat in a yearly test and only one other has ever exceeded Banostine's milk record.

The official records of Banostine Belle De Kol are as follows:

Record Days.	Milk Lbs.	But-fat. Pct.	But-fat. Lbs.
7	672.5	3.67	24.697
30	2,828.0	3.50	98.987
60	5,505.0	3.53	194.053
90	7,856.8	3.61	283.543
*7	492.1	4.31	*21.195
365	27,404.4	3.86	1,058.34

*This seven-day record was made eight months after freshening. Banostine Belle De Kol was bred, reared and developed by Dimmick & Bro., at Maplecrest Farm. She is a strong, vigorous cow of wonderful capacity and will weigh in the neighborhood of 1,600 pounds. She is the daughter of Banostine Belle, who was a grand-daughter of Euphrasia A., one of the greatest foundation cows the breed has ever produced, and who was brought to Geauga county about 30 years ago. The sire of Banostine Belle De Kol is Friend Hengerveld De Kol Butter Boy, all of whose A. O. R. daughters have records of 20 pounds or more. Friend Hengerveld De Kol Butter Boy is a son of De Kol 2's Butter Boy 3rd, and is showing himself to be the greatest son of that great sire.

During the time that Banostine Belle De Kol was in test she received nearly, if not all the time, more or less ensilage and alfalfa. When available she received roots and a mixed grain ration the foundation of which was bran and oats. The heavier feeds were varied frequently according to the condition of the cow and that which seemed best at one time did not seem best at other times. She was also fed some dried beet pulp, especially when fresh roots were not available. Her grain ration from the first was gradually increased to 25 pounds, or a little more, but later reduced to as low as nine pounds per day. As near as can be estimated, the average amount of grain fed was 12 or 14 pounds daily. She also received, when it was available, green corn with the stalks and also green clover and any other green feed that might be available, including feed from the pasture. Banostine Belle De Kol has given birth to three calves, this record having been made after the birth of the third calf. All of her calves to date have been heifer calves.

Dimmick & Bro have in their herd two other cows, stable mates of Banostine Belle De Kol, all daughters of the same sire, that have made excellent records. Daisy Grace De Kol holds the world's junior four-year-old record of 962,795 pounds of fat and 21,718.3 pounds of milk produced in 365 days. High-Lawn De Kol has a yearly record of 998,340 pounds of fat and 25,592.5 pounds of milk. These three Holstein cows have produced a larger amount of butter-fat in one year than any other three cows the world has ever produced, their average production of fat being 1,006.49 pounds, which is equal to 1,258.11 pounds of butter 80 per cent. fat.

These tests were made under the careful supervision of the dairy department of the Ohio State University. The cows were tested by nine different persons and were watched at times day and night, so that the records are fully verified.

INDICTED MAN ESCAPES.

John Fitzgerald Takes a French Leave From Infirmary.

Columbus.—John Fitzgerald, who was recently jointly indicted with George Rowe for forgery, escaped from the county infirmary and could not be found for arraignment in criminal court. Fitzgerald suffered from typhoid fever while at the county jail and was transferred to the infirmary where he might receive constant treatment. He seems to have convalesced rapidly.